



The Hour

"keeps up with Hitler to the minute"

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FRITZ KUHN'S WEEK-END HOST PARTICIPATED IN MURDERS

The Hour Discovers Vonsiatsky's Early Confessions

On July 20, at Webster, Mass., Fritz Kuhn pleaded guilty to charges of public drunkenness and profanity and paid his fine with far less concern than he betrayed at the mention of the name of "Count" Anastase Vonsiatsky, the notorious Russian fascist of Connecticut, whose week-end guests Kuhn and his Bund staff had been shortly before the arrest. With worried emphasis Kuhn insisted that his White-Russian host was not in the party halted for drunken speeding.

Vonsiatsky and International Fascism

Well might the fuehrer of the German-American Bund worry at the mention of his connection with the "Count." The name of Vonsiatsky carries wide and weighty implications, but among these the fact of his participation in murders has not until now reached the American public.

Founder of the "Russian National Fascist Revolutionary Party," proud wearer of an arm-band which combines a swastika with old tsarist-Russian colors, husband of an American heiress twenty-two years his senior, "Count" Vonsiatsky spends his time and her money in weaving from his Putnam, Conn., headquarters a net of international intrigue. He is in close touch not only with the Bund but with Berlin itself. He ran arms to Franco and has friends among the Gold Shirts of Mexico. Major Pease and other native American fascists distribute Vonsiatsky's leaflets, and the Japanese militarists in Eastern Asia number the "Count" among their staunchest aides.

However, the details of Vonsiatsky's trips from Connecticut to the Reich and Japan, as well as other revelations of his career since migrating to the United States and marrying American dollars, we reserve for the next issue of The Hour. In the present issue we quote from Vonsiatsky's own admissions of murders committed before coming to this



country and acquiring the status of a U. S. citizen.

The "Count" Bragged of Murders

Vonsiatsky wrote and published these admissions when, as a young penniless White Guard emigre, he pounded the pavements of West European capitals. The admissions appeared as an article entitled "Notes of a Monarchist" in a Russian-language newspaper of Paris, Posledniya Novosti (Last News), for June 24, 1921. The editor, Professor Paul Miliukov, who had held the post of foreign minister in Kerensky's government, prefaced Vonsiatsky's article with the following note: "Under this title there will soon appear a book by Mr. A. Vonsiatsky, who closely participated in the events in South Russia described by him. Delivered to us by the author of the manuscript, one of the chapters is here published as 'human document' vividly depicting a certain era."

So far as it is known to The Hour, the projected book did not materialize. This is the first time that the fact of Vonsiatsky's admissions in the Paris newspaper of 1921 is made public in the "Count"'s country of adoption. The Hour has in its possession a photostat of the incriminating article.

Kidnapping, Torturing, "Caviar"

Vonsiatsky's reminiscences deal with the summer and fall of 1918 spent by him and a few fellow-officers at Yalta, on the balmy shores of the Crimea. The German army of occupation had the military control of the peninsula, while a puppet Tatar government was supposed to exercise civil authority. Vonsiatsky and his friends had minor jobs in the commandant's office; some were jobless. Constituting a self-styled extra-legal band of "avengers," they made nightly raids upon the houses of "bolshevik suspects," kidnapping a wide variety of citizens -- from lawyers to laborers -- to a villa formerly belonging to the tsar, where they tortured and killed their victims. They divided their "prospects" into two categories: those "with caviar," and those "without caviar." "Caviar" in their lingo meant money. In his article Vonsiatsky makes it plain that men with "caviar" were preferred.

The complete illegality of such executions, and the extreme brutality with which they were carried out, prompted the protests of the populace addressed to the proper authority, that is, to the German masters. The press of Sevastopol and Yalta, according to Vonsiatsky himself, "was outraged by the officers' behavior and demanded justice." Vonsiatsky's band responded by a raid upon one of the editorial offices.

Mother's Futile Plea for Her Son -- Slow Bayoneting of Another Victim

With much glee Vonsiatsky describes how, during one of the raids, a mother fell to her knees before the raiders and begged for the life of her simple son protesting his innocence of "bolshevism." The plea was disregarded, and the death-march to a lonely beach was begun,

the author-executioner savoring the gruesome details, culminating in this scene: "Both bullets hit the head, and the skull burst to pieces. 'Ouch, ' swore Bicho (a fellow-executioner of Vonsiatsky's). 'Look!' Pieces of brain-matter splattered over the chest and sleeves of his mackintosh. 'The hell with him, let's go!'" They repair to a tavern, quoting Vonsiatsky -- "to pour down the rotten feeling." For, according to his own confession, "conscience bothered me at times."

In the case just quoted the victim turned out to be devoid of "caviar," and so the death-march was comparatively brief. In another case, however, that of a well-known attorney, Khesman-Zelensky by name, money was the main feature, and thus the torture was prolonged and merciless. In Room 8 of House 29 on the palace grounds of Livadia, the kidnapped victim was slowly beaten with a gun-ramrod on the head, the shoulders and the back, amid the questions as to his "bolshevism." The victim fell crying for mercy. A bayonet was stuck into the soft part of his leg, "blood gushed in a fountain, ... the bayonet penetrated deeper and deeper, the tortured one hollered with his last strength." Finally, to the command of the torturers, "Confess that you are a Sheeny-Mason!," the victim in an animal-like gasp answered: "I confess..."

"Vonsiatsky, Hold His Hand!" -- Needle Torture

The bayonet was by now more than half-way through the leg, and its point was already visible on the other side. But the torturers were not yet satisfied. One of them wondered at the victim's yells. He grabbed the man's hand: "So, he has a nervous system, what? ... Vonsiatsky, hold his hand!" To quote Vonsiatsky: "At once, needles one after another were stuck under the man's fingernails. He emitted a few more terrible cries and lost consciousness. ... Half-dead, he was dragged into the park, to the sea. Two days later, the sea threw out near Yalta a human corpse, all cut up, all needled. The face could not be distinguished..."

Enough of this, however.

The questions arise:

In the late 1920s "Count" Anastase Vonsiatsky became an American citizen. Did the naturalization officials of the U. S. Department of Labor know of this particular bit of the applicant's past?

In November 1934, the U. S. Department of State investigated Vonsiatsky. According to him, he was given a clean bill of health. Are the U. S. Department of State officials aware of these confessions of Vonsiatsky's, as well as of all of his activities since migrating to America?

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DETROIT'S NAZIS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HOMESPUN FASCISTS

"German-American Central Organization" Aids Parker Sage's League -- Together They Attack Revision of Neutrality Law

DETROIT, July 27—"The National Workers League" of Detroit, whose membership cards are signed by the notorious fascist, Parker Sage, is definitely working with the pro-fascist German movement here. This information was given to The Hour by members of the League.

This week The Hour obtained a copy of a special bulletin for "National Workers League" members which carried an invitation to a picnic at Carpathia Park. The League members were urged to attend, and were advised that a nationalist speaker would be present, but they were not told that the picnic was given under the auspices of the German-American Central Organization of Michigan.

The German-American Central Organization is an attempt to group together all German organizations in the state, and The Hour was informed by anti-Nazi Germans that they believed this was a plot of undercover German agents to sway all Michigan Germans to Hitler policies under the guise of neutrality.

At the picnic Herman Busse, president of the organization, viciously attacked the New Deal's Bloom Bill, which would revise the present Neutrality Law so as to distinguish between aggressor and victim, and all present were strongly urged to write their representatives before the bill was voted on. The Deutscher Weckruf, official organ of the German-American Bund, was widely circulated, as was the semi-Nazi Detroit Abendpost. Father Coughlin's Social Justice, which is sold at all secret Nazi meetings in Detroit, was peddled at the picnic along with the other Nazi material, which included Hitler's Mein Kampf, postcards bearing photographs of the Nazi dictator, and tickets to an official Nazi picnic at the German-American Bund Camp. Among the speakers were Dr. Hans Boening of Wayne University, Dr. Fred Thomas, and Nazi Consul Fritz Hailer.

It is through such camouflaged invitations and deceptive propaganda that members of the "National Workers League" are being used as pawns for the German Nazis here and are being led into the arms of the official Nazi movement. One member of the League informed The Hour that he attended a League meeting at which the speaker declared the League was not connected with the Bund, and yet invited League members to visit an official Bund meeting at which an American would give an address.

The Hour was also told of the way Detroit workers are approached by organizers for the League. These organizers are said to approach workers with the information that many prominent persons belong to the League, that the League is intending to hire several organizers and assistants, and that the League has connections with the employment managers of several of Detroit's leading factories.

This was the basis upon which many misled workers who needed jobs were attracted to the Black Legion, which was the scourge of Michigan.



for several years.

Italian Fascists in Active Agreement with Bund at Detroit

Two young Jewish youths were recently attacked, as they were walking in the Northwest Jewish neighborhood here, by three Italian amateur fighters. The two young complainants said that the Italians asked of what nationality they were, and attacked without waiting for an answer. "We were just having some fun," the fighters told the police, denying that their assaults were part of an organized anti-Semitic campaign. The three fighters are Joseph Placido, 18; Melio (Mike) Serra, 20; and Claudio Mancotti, 19.

This incident is only one of several recent anti-Semitic actions in this neighborhood. A short time ago the tires of 25 automobiles parked near a Jewish theater on 12th street were slashed, and swastikas and Heil Hitlers were marked on the cars. An old Jewish proprietor of a store where religious books are sold was recently attacked and insulted by a crowd of youths. Apartments occupied by Jewish people have been stink-bombed during the past month.

The Hour learns that Italian fascists are increasing their activity here, and there is some evidence that they have achieved a working agreement with the German Nazis. At a German-American Bund Camp at the Springfield Gladiola Gardens on US 10, about 10 miles north of Pontiac, Michigan, your correspondent was told by a Bund member that his organization had made a deal with the Italian fascists, and that the Italians had agreed to allow the Bund to use their hall on McDougall Street for meetings. A group of fascist Italians in the Packard plant are distributing literature for the "Industrial Legion of America." This literature is addressed to American-born gentiles and viciously attacks the foreign-born and Jews.

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BERLIN-BORN "PRAYER LEAGUE" APPEARS IN CHICAGO

Printed and mimeographed leaflets are being distributed by the so-called "Prayer League" with headquarters in Chicago. The anonymous authors proclaim that "our English speaking race appears to be heading for self-destruction," and therefore the practical thing to do is to follow the German example, for "Germany has saved herself from disintegration by Nazism." Quotations from the Bible and references to Lincoln (!) are followed by attacks on U. S. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter and appeals against a foreign policy directed at aggressors. Anti-Semitic hints are coupled with a prayer for a dictator to emerge in the United States: "Let all Christians pray for our Senators and Representatives to HOLD THE FORT for 'He is Coming.'"

Apparently not trusting U. S. mails, the organizers of the "Prayer League" distribute much of their literature by special messengers. One day recently many an "Aryan" lawyer in Chicago received by such a messenger an envelope containing "Prayer League" leaflets.

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IS IT TO BE ANOTHER MUNICH?

Appeasers Again At Work -- But This Time It's Much
More Difficult

By JOHANNES STEEL

(Special to The Hour)

Diplomatic opinion in Washington, Paris and London remains sharply divided as to whether a new Munich is to be expected on the Danzig issue as well as in the Far Eastern situation, while Moscow takes the attitude that a "double Munich" is morally certain.

The most sensational news in that direction was of course the disclosure that Mr. R. S. Hudson, secretary of the British Overseas Trade Department, had been conducting extensive negotiations with Dr. Helmuth Wohlthat, German economic emissary in London. Although the news of these negotiations filtered only this week through the veil of semi-official British censorship, they had been in progress for over a month now. No doubt Mr. Hudson conducted these negotiations at the request of Mr. Neville Chamberlain. For it is unthinkable that a junior cabinet minister could possibly have undertaken these talks on his own initiative, despite the devious explanations made by the British prime minister.

These talks in themselves are not as important as the mental attitude they reveal still to be prevailing in and around certain sections of the British government. It may also be observed that the news of these negotiations broke shortly after French and British public opinion had begun to reconcile itself to the fact that the Anglo-Soviet alliance was still a long way off. These negotiations today are bogged not so much because there is any unbridgeable difference of opinion between London and Moscow but rather because the Soviets will suspect any British cabinet in which the "Three Wise Men of the Reaction" (Chamberlain, Hoare, Simon) play a dominant role.

Many indications point to the fact that the Hudson story was to some extent designed to serve as a "feeler" of British public opinion of which Mr. Chamberlain seems to have some doubts that it will stand another Munich. Ground for another Munich has already been laid to a certain extent.

Chamberlain's Pressure and Polish Reactionaries

The Polish government has yielded to British pressure on the question as to how the British loan is to be spent, with the hope that the money will be forthcoming quickly because the Poles have thousands of reservists at hand, who must be trained, clothed and fed within the next two months, and British money is needed immediately. Meanwhile the militarization of Danzig is proceeding apace while it has become clear that the protest which Poland intended to make to Germany last week on this subject was withheld as the result of British pressure. But most import-

ant of all is the fact that there exists today what may correctly be called a Polish cabinet crisis. This situation, according to exclusive information from Warsaw, may be summarized as follows.

The Polish people at large, as well as the high command of the army, favor uncompromising resistance on all points and the closest possible association with the Russians. However, the foreign minister (Colonel Beck) and the minister of the interior both feel confident that Mr. Chamberlain would like to see a compromise and they have therefore successfully led within the past three weeks a powerful movement for reopening negotiations with Germany. It is in this light that official statements in Berlin to the effect that Hitler wants a peaceful solution must be interpreted. It is unlikely that this statement would have been made in such an explicit form in Berlin as occurred last week if there was not the feeling that at least one section of the Polish cabinet would not entirely ignore it. To put it bluntly, there are today some Poles who go around shouting that Poland is no Czechoslovakia just as the Czechs insisted last year that they were not like the Austrians. Internal divisions are operating in Poland, and Hitler naturally will make use of them. At any rate my sources say that Berlin and Warsaw are in contact. It must be emphasized here that whatever happens is in the last analysis in the hands of Mr. Neville Chamberlain. If the present British prime minister were less of a combination of the Sphinx and the Delphic oracle and Britain's position were absolutely clear and the Poles were convinced that the British are in fact determined to stop Hitler, neither Colonel Beck nor any other appeaser would dare to think about a compromise over Danzig. For a compromise over Danzig in the end means the destruction of Poland.

People Are on the Alert Against Appeasement

At any rate the appeasers are going to have a much more difficult time than they had last year. A second Munich will not be so easy to pull off either in Great Britain or in Poland. The people are much more on the alert today and are watching their respective governments more closely. Much will depend upon what is going to happen in Moscow during the next few days. If the Russians remain unconvinced of Mr. Chamberlain's good faith (and no one could blame them), the immediate effects of the breakdown of the Anglo-Soviet negotiations upon the internal balance of power in Poland will be terrific and will provide the appeasers with the chance to crawl out of their diplomatic rat-holes.

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ONE OF THOSE REMOTE POSSIBILITIES

The Hour hears that in certain circles of London the following possibility is discussed: The indignant public at last forces Chamberlain out and calls Churchill in. The new government answers Hitler's perpetual challenge. Disregarding Danzig, it revives the Czech issue. It tells Hitler: "Get out of Czechoslovakia, or fight!" If he fights, he is licked. If he surrenders, he is overthrown from within.

Interesting, however tentative.

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THE VITAL PART OF ENTIRE CHRISTIANITY IS AT STAKE, Says Archbishop of Freiburg

Archbishop Groeber of Freiburg deals with the present situation of the Catholic charitable works in Germany in a pastoral letter on the Caritas-collection of July 2. With grief the Archbishop points out "that here and there in the archdiocese these Catholic charitable activities are not only underrated, they are slowly eliminated altogether." "...We do not wrench from the State its right, we do not ask for a monopoly. For good reasons we demand only that we are permitted to participate honorably in alleviating the misery of those whom we call brethren and racial comrades." The Archbishop states that in future the Catholic Caritas will be required to care only for the abnormal, the crippled and for idiots. He asks whether the Catholic Caritas will be called to do its work only in times of war. Should the German nation, down to the individual communities, be burdened with new expenditures, changes and annoyance of the citizenry because the nuns, active up to now, are worried, limited in their work of charity, and removed from their communal apartments? Since the Catholic Caritas nuns soon will be removed in several towns, the Archbishop publicly raises these questions.

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DECLINE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN GERMANY

The organ of the Reich Ministry of German Science, Education and Popular Enlightenment publishes the conclusions of the official school census in Germany, taken on May 28, 1938. They show that the number of the Catholic confessional schools has decreased from 13,025 in 1937 to 9,639, namely by 26%. Since that time the decline of Catholic confessional schools has become much stronger but no official figures are yet available on this subject.

The well-known clergyman, author and orator, Romano Guardini, who was recently called to the University of Berlin and Breslau to lecture on questions of Catholic problems, has refused the offered professorship.

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PRIESTS BEATEN IN AUSTRIAN TYROL

From Vienna comes the news that anti-Catholic Nazi demonstrations in the Austrian Tyrol followed in the wake of a recent visit by the Reich youth leader, Baldur von Schirach. The latter, who was sent in place of Hitler himself, visited a large number of towns and villages. In Innsbruck, right after Schirach's stay, the Hitler Youth members fell upon a priest and beat him. Police were required to rescue the cleric from the rowdies and the news of the event aroused great indignation throughout the city. Meanwhile in Buch near Bregenz another priest was arrested. A delegation of angry peasants demanded his release from the Nazi officials and threatened to storm the jail. During the night the Nazis spirited the reverend away to notorious Dachau concentration camp.

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SMALL COMPANIES SUFFER HIGH PENALTIES IN NAZI GERMANY

Hitler's Government Interferes With Justice at the
Expense of Textile Industrialists

Two recent decisions of the Reich Supreme Court for Finance and Taxation throw vivid light on the way in which the Nazi government, under the cloak of legal procedure, mulcts small and middle-sized companies in consumers' goods industry for the sake of the forced armament program.

The cases were as follows: two spinning-mills in Saxony had raised their prices by a fraction of one per cent because of some negligence in calculation and interpretation of the complicated price-fixing decrees issued for the textile industry. Promptly the Nazi Price Commissioner levied penalties of 200,000 and 800,000 marks respectively. In their annual tax returns the two companies deducted the amounts of the penalties from the taxable profits. This deduction was denied to them by the Reich Supreme Court.

Nazi Court Versus Common Sense

The corporations based their deduction on Section 5 of the Income Tax Act and Section 19 of the 1st Corporation Tax Decree respectively, both of which texts provide a strictly limited definition of profit taxable as income. The rulings of the Court, based on this provision of the acts, have always permitted the deduction of all operating expenses, including even those which arose from the regular risks of business due to negligence (contractual penalties, for instance).

The Reich Supreme Court in its decisions (one as late as August 17, 1938 -- see Reichssteuerblatt, Berlin, 1939, p. 229) has extended that rule to penalties levied by public agencies. It became a legal rule that penalties, imposed on a company in sequence of some negligence in handling business, could be deducted from the net income. But now the Court reverses itself. By its two recent decisions (March 8 and 28, 1939) it holds that ordinary penalties have to be rated as criminal penalties, that they are "abnormal business expense." The result is that they cannot be deducted.

Artificial Reasoning

The reasons given for this reversal are more or less legalistic and artificial. The impression is that the appeal of the two companies was rejected by the Court against its own better judgment, in the face of a realization that such a ruling may ruin these companies. The Court, for instance, minimized the difference between two things: levying a penalty on somebody, and trying him before a regular criminal court. It overlooked what it had held true for twenty years, namely: administrative measures (such as levying a penalty because of the violation of

a decree) and judicial sentences belong to entirely different fields of man's social and constitutional life. It suddenly decided to treat both equally.

As the juridical argument is very poor, the Court refers to the change in "the people's feeling," which allegedly requires this reversal of traditional rulings. Actually of course there is no definite popular feeling on the subject.

In addition to a few other arguments of similar flimsiness, the Court says that the tax laws in question have to be read and interpreted from a National-Socialistic viewpoint. In the case under consideration it means that violations of price-fixing laws are no longer purely a nominal negligence but an actual attack against "the safety of the life of the entire German people."

No matter what situation on the market might have forced the company to exceed the price maximum set by the cramping regulations, it has to "atone" for such action. The Court formally authorizes the Tax Agencies to go as far with their penalties as to put an end to the very existence of the company!

Politics and Armaments Involved

This certainly leads to a political rather than a judicial reason for the non-deductibility of penalties imposed because of negligence within the scope of the corporation's business.

As a matter of fact, politics -- not justice -- decided this issue. Tax Counselor Kaemmel, commenting on the two decisions in the *Zeitschrift der Akademie fuer Deutsches Recht* (Munich, 1939, p. 459), discloses that the Finance Minister himself gave orders to the Tax Administration not to permit any longer the deduction of the non-criminal penalties from the taxable income. The minister thus put pressure on the Court. Although Herr Kaemmel relishes the reversal of the legal rule by the Court, he is obviously worried about the far-reaching repercussions of the new ruling, and questions the advantage of such high penalties and the additional tax.

The large number of small penalties and some huge ones levied upon textile firms creates the question: Why has the German government put such an enormous burden on the shoulders of one of the foremost German industries? The answer is: The government needs money -- for its feverish armaments. All sources must be tapped. Not even profitable industrial establishments are spared -- unless they produce armaments. Even the well-known Stoehr Company was no exception: it was recently fined 1,500,000 marks. Thus, light-goods industries are sacrificed to the armaments.

In German textile circles there is a saying: "First the Jews, then the Catholics, then textile industrialists." The saying, evidently, is not without foundation.

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